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January 4, 2002.

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1/4/02
Date of Signature

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:
 Spooner, John A.R.

Attorney Docket No: A1036A

Art Unit: unknown

Serial No.: unknown

Examiner: unknown

Filed: Concurrently Herewith

Title: Composite Cable Units

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT UNDER 37 CFR § 1.115

BOX PATENT APPLICATION
COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20231

Dear Sir:

This amendment is being submitted with a Continuation Application.

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 1, After the Title Insert the following sub-heading and text:

RELATED APPLICATIONS

The present application is a Continuation of U.S. Serial No. 09/220,268 filed December 23, 1998 now U.S. Pat. No. _____, which is incorporated herein by reference.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 1-19.

Please enter the following Claims:

20. A composite cable unit, comprising:

an optical sub-unit, said optical sub-unit including a tube generally surrounding at least one optical fiber and strength members or filaments that are operative to at least partially de-couple said at least one optical fiber from said tube;

an electrical sub-unit; and

said optical and electrical sub-units being removably connected at a medial portion generally between said sub-units by a common jacket material.

21. The composite cable unit of claim 20, said at least one optical fiber being tight buffered.

22. The composite cable unit of claim 20, said at least one optical fiber including at least one periodic refractive index therein.

23. The composite cable unit of claim 20, said at least one electrical conductor being part of a coaxial cable.

24. The composite cable unit of claim 20, said common jacket material including a ligature connecting said sub-units.

25. The composite cable unit of claim 20, said sub-units being separably welded together.

26. The composite cable unit of claim 20, said common jacket material including at least one identification means.

27. The composite cable unit of claim 20, a controlled bond being formed between said common jacket material and said at least one electrical conductor.

28. A composite cable unit, comprising:

an optical sub-unit, said optical sub-unit including a tube generally surrounding at least one tight buffered optical fiber and strength members or filaments that are operative to at least partially de-couple said at least one optical fiber from said tube;

an electrical sub-unit; and

said optical and electrical sub-units being removably connected at a medial portion generally between said sub-units by a common jacket material.

29. The composite cable unit of claim 28, said at least one optical fiber including at least one periodic refractive index therein.

30. The composite cable unit of claim 28, said at least one electrical conductor being part of a coaxial cable.

31. The composite cable unit of claim 28, said common jacket material including a ligature connecting said sub-units.

32. The composite cable unit of claim 28, said sub-units being separably welded together.

33. The composite cable unit of claim 28, said common jacket material including at least one identification means.

34. The composite cable unit of claim 28, a controlled bond being formed between said common jacket material and said at least one electrical conductor.

35. A composite cable unit, comprising:

an optical sub-unit, said optical sub-unit including a tube generally surrounding at least one optical fiber and strength members or filaments that are operative to at least partially decouple said at least one optical fiber from said tube;

an electrical sub-unit, said electrical sub-unit being a portion of a coaxial cable; and

said optical and electrical sub-units being removably connected at a medial portion generally between said sub-units by a common jacket material.

36. The composite cable unit of claim 35, said at least one optical fiber being tight buffered.

37. The composite cable unit of claim 35, said common jacket material including a ligature connecting said sub-units.

38. The composite cable unit of claim 35, said common jacket material including at least one identification means.

39. The composite cable unit of claim 35, a controlled bond being formed between said common jacket material and a portion of said coaxial cable.

REMARKS

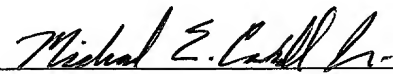
Entry of this amendment is respectfully requested.

The present application is a Continuation of co-pending application Serial No. 09/220,268. The Examiner is respectfully requested to indicate in the first Office Action that the information considered in the related earlier application has been reviewed and considered in the present application.

Additionally, the Applicants direct the Examiner to Fig. 3, which illustrates an optical fiber within a tube (not numbered), and page 8, ll. 5-6 of the Application. Applicants have not and do not admit to any of the assertions in any prior Office Action. This amendment is being filed without prejudice to any pending or cancelled claim. Allowance of all pending claims is believed to be warranted and is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is welcomed to telephone Applicants' representative to discuss the merits of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,



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